

GAZING ON THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Talk 3 – Slow to anger

Small group questions

Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact phil@bathurstanglican.org.au

1. What stood out to you the most in the sermon about God being slow to anger? Was there anything you didn't understand?

erek apayim: lit. 'long of nostrils', a physical image for the long process of exhaling out one's embodied temper, 'slow to anger'. The patience of God is self-evident to anyone with eyes to see the injustice of the world at large, and the brokenness embodied in the human condition. He holds back His wrath out of His compassion and graciousness toward us.

Read Exodus 34:6-7 and Matthew 2 Peter 3:1-9

2. Share any stories of people in your life who embody patience. What do you admire most about patient people?
3. When is it easy to be patient? Hard to be patient?
4. Does God find it easy/hard to be patient? Or is He simply, just, patient?
5. How is God's patience evident in the world? How do we experience the patience of God? Can you recall a specific instance in your life where you experienced God's patience and slow-to-anger nature?
6. How does Jesus display patience in His life and ministry? How should that shape our lives as His followers?
7. How do you see God's patience at work in your journey of becoming more Christ-like? Share a personal experience where you recognized God's patient correction in your life.
8. The sermon highlighted instances in the Bible where God displayed patience, such as with the Israelites. Are there other biblical examples that come to mind that illustrate God's patience? How do these biblical examples inform our understanding of God's character?
9. Reflect on the analogy of being transformed slowly, like a gradual change in behaviour rather than an immediate transformation. Share specific areas in your life where you've experienced slow but significant transformation.
10. Discuss the connection between God's slowness to anger and our call to be slow to anger. How can we practically apply this in our relationships with others?
11. The sermon emphasized that God's patience will not last forever. How does this truth affect your perspective on sharing Jesus for life?

We come before you with hearts full of gratitude for the truth shared today about your incredible patience and slowness to anger. Thank you for being a God who patiently transforms us and walks with us in our journey of becoming more like Christ. In the midst of our personal transformations, remind us of the urgency to share the Gospel with those around us. Help us to be intentional in sharing Jesus for life so that many more may know the wonderful nature of your patience. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.